(b) and (c) Facilities regarding health, education, housing, recreation, etc. are made available to the workers from the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund. There is always a constant effort to enlarge and extend the scope of the welfare activities *i.e.* sanctioning new dispensaries, sanctioning more scholarships etc.

Statement

Name of State	No. of Beedi Workers (in lakhs)
1. Andhra Pradesh	2.50
2. Bihar	3.50
3. Gujarat	0.50
4. Karnataka	3.00
5. Kerala	1.50
6. Madhya Pradesh	5.65
7. Maharashtra	2.50
8. Orissa	1.60
9. Rajasthan	1.00
10. Tamil Nadu	2.00
11. Uttar Pradesh	4.5
12. West Bengal, Assam Tripura & Meghalaya	4.50
TOTAL	32.75

Seizure of Indian fishing trawlers by Pakistani Coast Guards

763. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani Coast Guards had detained and seized Indian fishing trawlers while fishing in the territorial water near Okha in Gujarat in the first week of January, 1987; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to get back the Indian fishing trawlers and also release of crewmen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir; three Indian fishing vessels and two vessels on lease with Indian companies were seized by Pakistani authorities in January, 1987.

(b) the matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan. Two of the vessels and their crew have already been released and we have been informed that Pakistan is ready to release two other vessels and their crew. The case about the fifth vessel is yet to come up in Pakistan courts.

Blacklisting of importers and exporters

764. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of importing and exporting organizations blacklisted since 1st April, 1985; and

(b) the names of Government undertakings black-listed since 1st April, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) There is no provision for black-listing of firms in the Imports and Exports Control Act and the Orders issued thereunder.

Development of tourism in North-Eastern States

765. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North-Eastern States have good tourist potential to attract foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Ministry of Tourism has taken up a number of schemes forwarded by the State/Union Territory Governments of North Eastern States for provision of infrastructure like accommodation, wayside amenities, internal transport in wildlife sanctuaries, water sports, etc.

Social forestry in Madhya Pradesh

766. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area covered by social forestry scheme so far in the State of Madhya Pradesh and the total expenditure incurred so far thereon;

(b) what percentage of trees planted are still surviving; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any initiative to ensure better survival rate of the trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) An area of 6.36 lakh ha. was afforested in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the Sixth Five Year Plan period on which an amount of Rs. 8063.39 lakh was spent.

(b) Assessment of survivals has been made on a sporadic and not very regular basis. It is felt that these evaluations are limited in their scope and hence do not point to any reliable conclusions.

(c) Survival is a factor of availability of a modicum of water and reasonable protection measures. Efforts are on to integrate soil conservation and water-specific schemes with programmes of afforestations, and to induce social fencing, in an effort to improve the survival rate.

Wood used for packing and transportation of horticulture products

767. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about 26 million cubic meters of wood is used annually for packaging and transportation of horticulture products in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken not to remove the trees from the forests for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) According to the report of a Task Force appointed by the Government of India, the requirement of wood for packing horticultural products in the country has been estimated as 5.636 million cubic metres.

(b) Government of India have taken the following steps to minimise the use of wood for manufacture of packing cases:—

(i) It has been decided to provide additional Central Assistance of Rs. 10 crores during 1986-87 and 3.70 crores during 1987-88 to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for contribution towards equity of the company proposed to be set up for manufacture of corrugated board cartons for packaging of fruits.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued king cartons for packing of fruits has been exempted from levy of excise duty.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to restrict fellings in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.